

Three Spoons Investigation

KIDS HANDS-ON

RUN AT 9:45

20 MIN

The point

Everyone **KNOWS** which spoon is metal — but how? Materials are told apart by their **properties**: feel, weight, sound, hardness.

Materials

- Wooden spoon, metal spoon, plastic spoon (drawer-cold)
- Tuning fork or metal chime

Steps

- 1 Ask, with think time: “**How do you KNOW this one is metal?**”
- 2 **TOUCH** each spoon — which feels coldest?
- 3 **HEFT** them — heaviest? lightest?
- 4 **TAP** each on the table edge — ring, knock, or click?
- 5 **PRESS** a fingernail in — which dents? which shrugs you off?
- 6 **BEND** gently — which flexes a little?
- 7 Strike the tuning fork: **which spoon sings closest to this?**
- 8 Write each **earned property word** on the board as kids struggle to describe it.

*Say: “Every material has its own ways — its own feel, its own weight, its own voice. Those ways are called its **PROPERTIES**.”*



Fig. 1 — same object, three materials

TEACHER PREP — THE DAY BEFORE

Confirm all three spoons and the cloth bag; spoons come from a **drawer**, not the warm dishwasher — the metal one must start room-cold.

What to watch for

- Metal: coldest, heaviest, rings; fingernail never marks it
- Wood: warm, light, knocks; fingernail dents it easily
- Plastic: light, smooth, clicks; flexes the most

EXPECTED RESULT

The kids can now say **how** they know — each material announced itself through its properties. (The cold-touch question gets its full answer at 11:25, Card 5.)